

CNIT PARIS - LA DEFENSE

2nd Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

17 January 2011

Opening Address

Mr. Benedito Braga

President of the International Forum Committee

Your Excellency the Minister of Ecology (Sustainable Development, Transportation and Housing) of France Mme. Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet

Your Excellency the President of the World Water Council Mr. Loic Fauchon

Dear Colleagues of the Board of Governors of the WWC

Distinguished participants

Ladies and gentlemen

I am much honored to welcome you to this second consultation meeting in this fantastic City of Lights of Paris. The World Water Council, the Government of France and the City of Marseille are extremely pleased with this overwhelming response from the international community towards the organization of the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012. We have in this room nearly

400 participants from more than 50 countries. We have designed this meeting to be a small one to work on specific issues related to the Forum. But quantity is just one aspect. The quality of the participants in this room is what makes us certain that the results of the work during these two days will be most successful.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to Minister Morizet for taking the time from her extremely busy agenda to come and address this meeting. This gesture shows the importance that the Government of France puts on the theme of water and on the results of our next Forum.

This next Forum will be, as our President Fauchon proposed, the Forum of Solutions. We are not saying that the previous forums have not produced interesting proposals in this direction. Certainly all the experience and knowledge developed in previous forums will be utilized by this group. We will look into success stories in different regions of the world. We will draw from previous forums and will rely on the innovative propositions from this group. However, now the focus is on Solutions. We have designed a strategy of establishing targets and from targets move towards solutions. Besides, we have designed a very intense and participatory regional process that will allow bringing solutions that are SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound and a process that is WISE - Wide Involvement Stakeholder Exchanges.

We are planning a very interesting and innovative consultation. This is the continuation of a process that started in April of last year in Paris and Marseille with the kick-off meeting. On that occasion, which marked the launching of the Forum process, we had the honor and the privilege to listen to H.E. the President Nicolas Sarkozy and to H.E. the Mayor of Marseille Mr. Jean Claude Gaudin. During that meeting the discussion with representatives of different sectors of society allowed us to produce the set of priorities that will be deeply analyzed during this meeting towards finding targets and associated solutions.

I urge use to bring your experience, knowledge, wisdom and your availability for us to produce a program that will allow us achieving our target of a focused and solutions oriented forum.

Thank you for your attention.